

## AMENDMENT

Please enter the following amendments:

### IN THE SPECIFICATION

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 9, after "RELATED APPLICATIONS", with the following rewritten paragraph:

*B1* This is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Ser. No. 09/375,615, now U.S. Patent No. 6,284,217, filed August 17, 1999.

### IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

*B2* 15. (Amended) A steam reforming catalyst structure comprising:

a support comprising a spinel support; and

a steam reforming catalyst selected from the group consisting of rhodium, iridium, nickel, palladium, platinum, carbide of group VIb and combinations thereof;

wherein the catalyst structure has stability such that, when tested in a packed bed at 900°C, with a feedstream consisting essentially of methane and steam at a 1:1 ratio of methane to steam, at a constant pressure and a contact time such that there is a hydrocarbon conversion of at least 50%, and measuring the CO selectivity, wherein between 26 hours time-on-stream and about 40 hours time-on-